In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3, and substitute therefor:

- - The RANKL DNAs, proteins and analogs described herein will have numerous uses, including the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions. For example, soluble forms of RANKL will be useful to transduce signal via RANK. RANKL compositions (both protein and DNAs) will also be useful in development of antibodies to RANKL, both those that inhibit binding to RANK and those that do not. Also provided herein are compositions comprising antibodies to RANKL ~~to be used, for example, in interfering with RANKL signaling, as components of diagnostic or research assays for RANKL or RANKL activity, or in affinity purification of RANKL~~. The inventive DNAs are useful for the expression of recombinant proteins, and as probes for analysis (either quantitative or qualitative) of the presence or distribution of RANKL transcripts. - -

1-35 (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A purified antibody that ~~specifically~~ binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 than to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

37. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 36, which is a monoclonal antibody.

38. (currently amended) A method for generating~~preparing~~ an antibody ~~that binds a RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, wherein the antibody is elicited by,~~ said method comprising immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;

b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;

d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13~~; and~~

~~g) a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13~~.

39-41 (cancelled)

42. (currently amended) A purified antibody that ~~specifically~~ binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide than to a murine RANKL polypeptide according to SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said human RANKL polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

b) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;

c) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;

d) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

e) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

43. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 42 which is a monoclonal antibody.

44. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

45. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

46. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

47. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 43, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

48. (previously presented) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 36.

49. (previously presented) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim 43.

50-52 (cancelled)

53. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

54. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

55. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

56. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

57. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

58. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

59. (new) A method of producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 37, said method comprising culturing a cloned hybridoma cell that produces said antibody.

60. (new) A method of producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 37, said method comprising injecting into the peritoneal cavity of a rodent a cloned hybridoma cell that produces said antibody.

61. (new) A cloned hybridoma cell that produces a monoclonal antibody according to claim 37.

62. (new) A purified antibody that binds to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, but that does not bind to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

63. (new) A purified antibody that binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 than to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said antibody is generated by a method comprising immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.